



Christie Lawler



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## Can you spot the threat?

*A propped-open door, an unidentified automobile, an unknown photographer. Depending upon circumstance, any of these situations could indicate a security breach. Force protection personnel depend upon community awareness to help differentiate between innocent incidents and terrorist threats.*

# EUCOM chief of staff: No one exempt from force protection duties

By Hugh C. McBride

**S**ervice member or civilian, sponsor or spouse: If you live, work or spend time on a U.S. military installation, you have a role to play in the force protection effort.

This is the opinion of Lt. Gen. John B. Sylvester – and his words carry some weight. A veteran of both Vietnam and Operation Desert Shield/Desert Storm, Sylvester is currently the Headquarters, U.S. European Command, chief of staff.

In that role, Sylvester oversees the implementation of force protection policies and procedures throughout EUCOM's 93-nation area of responsibility. And with the threat of terrorism as real as it has ever been for U.S. service members and civilians worldwide, he does not mince words when emphasizing the important contribution that all individuals must make to maintain a safe living and working environment.

"We need to be vigilant everywhere," Sylvester said. "There are bad guys out there who want to do us harm."

Sylvester said the effective exercise of "the inherent right of self defense" hinges on the willingness of all community members to make force protection a part of their daily lives – at work and at home, on post and when travelling.

"I just want [community members] to be aware that it's as much their role as it is for the MPs," he said. "It's everybody's job to ensure that we protect ourselves and our family members."

While to some the term "force protection" may conjure images of armed service members and covert, high-tech intelligence-gathering procedures, Sylvester said the concept is grounded in a simple – yet essential – mindset.

"To me, force protection is all about awareness," he said. "It's about having your senses activated."

Noticing and reporting, for example, an unfamiliar car that has been parked in the same space for an extended period of time – or an individual taking photographs where he or she shouldn't be – could be the difference between



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**Lt. Gen. John B. Sylvester**  
U.S. European Command

a secure installation and an act of terrorism.

Though some may believe they would be "bothering" the military police by reporting such apparently innocuous situations, Sylvester said any individual or situation that seems to be suspicious or out of the ordinary needs to be called into question.

"I'm going to ask that question, [and] I want everybody to have that same attitude," Sylvester said. "If it makes the hairs in your nose crinkle, check it out."

Throughout Germany, U.S. military personnel charged with "checking it out" have always been able to depend upon their host nation for support, Sylvester said.

And though the U.S. and German governments are currently embroiled in a high-profile difference of opinion over the situation in Iraq, host-nation support on the local level has never wavered, he said.

"The Germans have stepped up to the plate," he said, adding that the response from our host nation did not surprise him. "This is not new – they've been [providing assistance and support] for years. They've done a wonderful job...and I couldn't be happier."

While Sylvester does not delude himself about the seriousness of the threats facing U.S. personnel and family members around the globe, he is equally confident in the ability of these individuals to maintain a vigilant force protection posture.

"People understand that there is a threat," he said. "We are going to police and protect ourselves."

# Awareness key to combating terrorism

U.S. Army, Europe, Release

**A**ccording to the U.S. Department of Homeland Security, the recent increase in reported cases of individuals conducting surveillance in the United States and Europe indicates possible targeting by terrorists. Prompt reporting of suspicious activities may prevent a terrorist attack.

Terrorists conduct surveillance to determine a target's suitability for attack by assessing the capabilities of existing security and discerning weaknesses in that facility.

After identifying weaknesses, they plan their attack at the point of greatest vulnerability.

Because terrorists must conduct surveillance – often over a period of weeks, months or years – detection of their activities is possible. Regardless of their level of expertise, terrorists invariably make mistakes. Knowing what to look for – and being able to distinguish the ordinary from the extraordinary – are the key elements to successful surveillance detection.

Force protection personnel advise anyone who observes any of the following to immediately notify the military police:

- Multiple sightings of the same suspicious person, vehicle or activity, separated by time, distance or direction.
- Individuals who stay at bus or train stops for extended periods while buses and trains come and go.
- Individuals who order food at a restaurant and leave before the food arrives or who order without eating.
- Individuals who carry on long conversations on pay or cellular telephones.
- Joggers who stand and stretch for inordinate amounts of time.
- Individuals who sit in parked cars for extended periods of time.
- Individuals who don't fit into the surrounding environment because they are wearing improper attire for the location or season.
- Individuals drawing pictures or taking notes in an area not normally of interest to a tourist or showing unusual interest in security cameras, guard locations and security reaction procedures.

## IACS registration schedule

All U.S. identification cardholders and installation pass holders (and applicants) within the U.S. Army, Europe, area of responsibility must register for the new Installation Access Control System.

In Stuttgart, this registration will be conducted alphabetically (by last name) according to the following schedule:

### Patch & Kelley Barracks Residents

A to I: March 10 to 15  
J to R: March 17 to 22  
S to Z: March 24 to 29

### Robinson Barracks Residents

A to I: March 31 to April 5  
J to R: April 7 to 12  
S to Z: April 14 to 19

### Panzer Kaserne Residents

A to I: April 21 to 26  
J to R: April 28 to May 3  
S to Z: May 5 to 10

### Off-Post Residents

A to I: May 12 to 17  
J to R: May 19 to 24  
S to Z: May 26 to 31

■ Registration hours are 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

■ Registration for Patch, Panzer, RB and off-post residents will be conducted in the Patch Barracks Installation Access Control Office (building 2307).

■ Kelley residents will register in the temporary IACO on Kelley Barracks (building 3315).

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